

DARPA BAA 02-08
Q&A though 01 April 2002

1. The BAA solicitation and PIP state "To be considered for the initial round of funding, full proposals must be submitted to DARPA/IAO ... on or before 4:00 p.m. local time, 22 April 2002." Is it possible that the submission date is incorrect in the published solicitation and PIP?

RESPONSE: The BAA was posted on March 21 and the April 22 date is just for the first round of submissions. The BAA will remain open for one year.

2. I am not sure what the "Official Transmittal Letter" is. I don't see any details about it. Can you please tell me what this is?

RESPONSE: The "Official Transmittal Letter" is a forwarding letter on company letterhead, signed by an officer of the company authorized to make offers in response to BAA02-08.

3. Is it possible to obtain a list of performers and the principal investigators for programs listed in Technology Area 3 - Prototype System Technologies?

RESPONSE: The performers are listed below.

Evidence Extraction & Link Discovery (EELD):

BBN, SRA, Syracuse University, 21st Century Technology, Alphatech, CHI System, CMU, Cycorp, Metron, Naval Research Lab, SRI, USC/ISI, New York University, Stanford, University of Massachusetts, University of Texas (Arlington), University of Wisconsin/University of Texas, Veridian/IET Team, Global Infotek (GITI)

Wargaming the Asymmetric Environment (WAE):

American Institute for Research, Naval Research Laboratory, Potomac Institute for Policy Studies, Psynapse, Pacific Sierra Research Corporation, Syntek

Translingual Information Detection (TIDES):

Army Research Lab, Baldwin Language Technologies, BBN, Berkeley, Carnegie Mellon University, Corporation for National Research Initiatives (CNRI), Columbia University, Cornell University, IBM, USC Information Sciences Institute, Johns Hopkins University, Language Data Consortium, MITRE, National Institute of Standards and Technology, NYU, Queens College, SPAWAR, University of Massachusetts, University of Maryland, University of Pennsylvania, Virage.

Human Identification at a Distance (HID):

Notre Dame University, National Institute for Standards and Technology, RAND Corporation, SAIC, University of South Florida, Institute for Defense Analyses, Visionics, CTSC, Brown University, Carnegie Mellon University, Colorado State University, Georgia Tech University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT Artificial Intelligence (AI) Laboratory, Stanford University, University of Freiburg, University of Illinois, University of Texas at Dallas, University of Southampton, Equinox

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Corporation, University of California (Irvine), Lehigh University, Sarnoff Corporation, Columbia University, University of California (Berkeley), University of Maryland

Bio-Surveillance:

Veridian Systems, Johns Hopkins University, IBM, Mellon-Pitt Corporation

4. I am interested in the counter-terrorism problem and see many applications for my field of research, Human Factors. As a Human Factors Researcher, I feel I could make a valuable contribution to many aspects of the project by providing input on how to best design for human use and consider the human user in the design. However, the nature of my expertise is not such that I can propose a specific physical product. Given this, I am wondering if there is a way for me to submit a proposal to become part of a cross-organizational team.

RESPONSE: You may wish to initiate discussions with the organizations identified in the response to Question # 3 above.

5. Is subcontracting to unclassified Subcontractors allowed under this effort?

RESPONSE: Unclassified subcontractors are allowed to perform on unclassified projects or sub-projects that can be segregated from classified efforts.

6. Is subcontracting to non-U.S. citizens allowed under this effort?

RESPONSE: Non-US citizens may perform as subcontractors on the work in # 5 above.

7. BAA page 11, paragraph 1 and 2, "What are the exceptions to non-US organizations and non-U.S. employees performing under this effort based on?"

RESPONSE: Exceptions will be evaluated on the basis of specific work proposed, that is, the relationship (if any) between unclassified work and other classified efforts, as well as the national identity of non-US organizations or citizens.

8. Are sole source awards under pre-existing IDIQ contracts a possibility under the BAA?

RESPONSE: Proposals will be considered on technical merits and should be submitted in accordance with the BAA and PIP. Refer to these documents for a description of the proposal evaluation and award process.

9. We have been working through technical sections of our proposal and were wondering if you could suggest how much background material in our area of interest is needed for reviewers? Our desire is to avoid wasting precious pages covering old ground, if unnecessary.

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RESPONSE: You may assume that relevant reviewers are familiar with the technical aspects of proposals under their cognizance. If desired, proposers may simply reference background papers that are attached as additional resources; refer to instructions in the Proposers Information Pamphlet for Volume I, Part III of proposals.

10. We are interested in submitting a proposal in a particular topic area. Could you please email us any pertinent information that could be helpful?

Similar question from another offeror: In the initial information it states we should request a copy of the PIP. Can you tell me how I can get a copy of this?

RESPONSE: All pertinent information relative to BAA 02-08 can be found on the DARPA website at www.darpa.mil. Click on Solicitations, then select Information Awareness Office and follow the appropriate links to obtain the information you desire. Alternatively, the PIP is available directly from the FedBizOpps.gov web site. Go to "vendors" then to ODA (other defense agencies) and click "offices;" choose "DARPA" and "posted dates," then under "March 21" for BAA 02-08 click on "Solicitation 01" to retrieve the PIP.

11. Will awards of greater than \$1M be considered for proposals that address innovative technology involving a team effort?

RESPONSE: Yes, such awards will be considered.

12. The PIP states: "The size of each award and duration of efforts will vary according to the type of effort undertaken. In the case of proposals containing partitioned segments or phases, proposers should define partitions so that the annual budget for each is in the \$200,000 to \$1,000,000 range." What is meant by partitioned segments or phases?

RESPONSE: Work occurring between milestones is an example of a segment or phase.

13. The PIP states that "DARPA's intent is to review proposals as soon as possible after they arrive." Would a proposal that was submitted early be immediately reviewed prior to April 22? Would that proposal, if "selected", then get under contract early?

RESPONSE: The government anticipates commencing proposal evaluation immediately after April 22 and concluding approximately 30 days later with selection determinations for all proposals. The timing of actual contract awards is a function of the negotiating required with each offeror.

14. Certification/Security - Re Section II E. (3) PCL Certifications: Is the intent of this instruction to send message traffic from holding facilities to DARPA/SID before submission of a proposal? If so, is the plain language address of DARPA/SID sufficient information, or is DARPA SSO contact information required to send? If

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message traffic is the preferred mode of secure transmission, how will DARPA/SID know what PCL information belongs to what proposer?

RESPONSE: To facilitate cross-correlation of proposals and Personal Clearance Level (PCL) Certifications, in Part II, Section E(3) of the Technical and Management proposals of offerors desiring consideration for awards involving collaboration with the Intelligence Community, the full name (first, middle and last names) of each proposed Key Performer and designated research-enabling non-key performer shall be listed, with their Social Security Number and their PCL currently held.

For those proposed performers currently holding SCI clearances, the appropriate security channels for certifying to DARPA/SID the information requested in Part II, Section E(3) of the PIP (p. 11), are Special Security Office (SSO) channels. Specifically, the offeror's Special Security Officer shall transmit the requested information above his/her signature, printed name, title and telephone number, via secure facsimile, to DARPA/SSCO, at (703) 524-9605 (call before transmitting). The facsimile subject line shall read, "ATTN: BAA 02-08 (Mr. Barger / (703) 248-1532); Offeror/Title: [offeror's name/proposal title]."

For those proposed performers currently holding non-SCI / collateral clearances, or who do not hold an active PCL, the appropriate security channels for certifying to DARPA/SID the information requested in Part II, Section E(3) of the PIP (p. 11), is via nonsecure facsimile to DARPA's Visitor Control Center (VCC). Specifically, the offeror's Security Officer shall transmit the requested information above his/her signature, printed name, title and telephone number, via nonsecure facsimile, to DARPA/VCC, at (703) 528-3655. The facsimile subject line shall read, "ATTN: BAA 02-08 (Mr. Szymanski / (703) 248-1530; Offeror/Title: [offeror's name/proposal title]."

15. For purchase of IT Resources under the contract, does the 1-page signed-letter and detailed explanation of purchasing process count against 15-page limit of the Technical Volume?

RESPONSE: No

16. Is Velo binding of each volume acceptable? What is the preferred binding/delivery method?

RESPONSE: Ring binders are not acceptable; no other preferences.

17. Please clarify if cost is to be presented by Fiscal Year or Contract Year: "Cost estimates shall be provided by Government Fiscal Year" (ref: Volume II, Cost Proposal) versus "Cost of the proposed effort: specified by contract year" (ref: Part II: Detailed Proposal). Perhaps an example would help clarify?

RESPONSE: For a three-year effort, costs should be detailed for each year of the proposed contract. Additionally, costs should be phased by government fiscal year (e.g., effort starts in June so identify first year contract costs from June through May as well as

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phasing of costs by fiscal year, June through September; costs for the first contract year from October through May would be allocated to the second fiscal year).

18. Under another DARPA program, the government provided a slate of Subject Matter Experts that aided program participants in defining the scope/features of planning applications. Will DARPA do this for the BAA02-08? Or should we propose to contract with our own experts (FBI, INS, intelligence)?

RESPONSE: The government will not be providing a slate of Subject Matter Experts. If offerors wish to employ the services of various experts, they will need to make such arrangements on their own.

19. May we discuss proposal ideas with program managers prior to proposal submission?

RESPONSE: Offerors may speak with program managers prior to proposal submission to discuss ideas. Discussions will no longer be permitted once proposals have been submitted.

20. How much funding is available for this solicitation and what is the average award size (and POP) expected to be?

Full program duration is generally 3-5 years. The BAA Proposers Information Pamphlet (available at: <http://www.eps.gov/spg/ODA/DARPA/CMO/BAA02-08/Attachments.html>) contains the following guidance:

"The size of each award and duration of efforts will vary according to the type of effort undertaken. In the case of proposals containing partitioned segments or phases, proposers should define partitions so that the annual budget for each is in the \$200,000 to \$1,000,000 range. If warranted, portions or partitions of resulting awards may be segregated into pre-priced options. The Government reserves the right to select for award all, some or none of the proposals received. The Government also reserves the right to fund all, or any part of, a proposal evaluated to be eligible for award. Awards are subject to the availability of Government funds, and may be incrementally funded."

21. Under the Repository Technology area, what database size, platforms and tools are currently in use or could be considered benchmarks?

RESPONSE: Repository technology development represents a new program thrust. There are no platforms or tools currently in use or that could be considered benchmarks. DARPA hasn't had a database technology program in eight years and the design goals for current databases were established in the 1980's when processors were slow and expensive, networks were built with modems, and disks were tiny. Given that the cost of bandwidth, processing speed, memory and storage space are fractions of what they were only a decade ago, these attributes should not be considered as solution constraints. Historical data indicates that disk capacity is - and will continue - growing faster than

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Moore's Law and almost everything about the infrastructure has changed. The goal of research in this technical area is the total re-invention of technologies for storing and accessing information. Although database size will no longer be measured in the traditional sense, the amounts of data that will need to be stored and accessed will be unprecedented, measured in petabytes.

22. Will new efforts under this BAA address cyber attack and defense, or will that be the domain of the Advanced Technology Office's Information Assurance program?

RESPONSE: Cyber attack and defense will be the domain of the Advanced Technology Office's Information Assurance program.

23. The parenthetical reference to the bibliography sections on page 6 (Proposal Format) of the PIP states "Volume I, Section IV". Should this reference be to Volume I, Part III?

RESPONSE: Correct; the reference should read, "Volume I, Part III."

24. The parenthetical reference to the proprietary claims sections on page 6 (Proposal Format) of the PIP states "Volume I, Section III.I". Should this reference be to Volume I, Part II.H?

RESPONSE: Correct; the reference should read, "Volume I, Part II.H"

25. The information requested regarding personal security clearance (PCL) certifications on page 11 of the PIP is specified to be transmitted through appropriate security channels. How much, if any, of this information is also required for inclusion with the unclassified Volume I of our proposal? Is a simple reference to the information transmitted through security channels sufficient?

RESPONSE: Reference to the transmitted information is acceptable. See also Question # 14.

26. Must the reference material included as part of Part III of Volume I be embedded in the same electronic file as the information provided in Parts I and II? That is, is it acceptable to include separate electronic files for each of the reference, provided all of the electronic files are included in the CD(s) or floppy disk(s) that are submitted?

RESPONSE: The government desires to receive a single electronic file for each Volume of a proposal. Each Volume should be a stand-alone document versus a collection of two or more separate files.

27. Under this BAA, is it better to submit one proposal for a comprehensive system, or submit a set of smaller, less costly proposals?

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RESPONSE: It is a business decision on the part of each company as to whether or not they submit one proposal or a set of smaller proposals. In doing one or the other, the proposal could show how it could be broken out or how it would work together depending on how an offeror decides to submit.

28. Because a comprehensive proposal would be more detailed, and require a lengthy discussion, supplemental papers become more critical than ever. Are such papers considered as part of the proposal discussion? Can they be referenced directly by the proposal?

RESPONSE: The Proposers Information Pamphlet encourages you to submit a clearly worded, CONCISE, but descriptive technical proposal. DARPA is trying to get great ideas quickly, in a succinct package and avoid onerous proposal preparation requirements. Offerors may submit copies of not more than 3 relevant papers. The answer to Question # 9 also pertains (see above).

29. What do we need to know or do about the licensing issue? We're going to be in a mad scramble to file provisional patent protection prior to the submission with DARPA, because DARPA uses outside reviewers, publishes applications, and we don't want to jeopardize our intellectual property.

RESPONSE: DARPA always protects proprietary information using the following reasonable and standard practices: All reviewers must sign a non-disclosure agreement, which exposes them to extraordinary legal risks if they fail to protect the intellectual property of offerors. All SETA (Scientific, Engineering and Technical Assistance) support contractors are bound by similar rules, which, if violated, would result in contract violation, legal risk and loss of future earning potential. If the standard and reasonable methods DARPA uses to protect proprietary information are not considered acceptable, then proposals should not be submitted. You should contact an intellectual property attorney for advice on licensing issues. DARPA can negotiate intellectual property rights depending on the type of award instrument.

30. We are considering use of a COTS product for this BAA. How should we handle licensing issues? Will DARPA want a blanket license for the product? Blanket license for the application? Site license? Single license?

RESPONSE: Offerors may wish to provide ROM pricing for licensing under different scenarios (blanket vs. site vs. single license). Licensing requirements will be application specific; actual fees will be negotiated between proposal selection and contract award.

31. The PIP states: "DARPA is steadfastly committed to creating leave-behind prototypes that are reliable, easy to install, and packaged with documentation and source code". If we pay a vendor to make changes to a commercial product, will DARPA require that they deliver the source code for the entire product? For the portion that is modified for this contract?

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RESPONSE: The government requirement for source code will be application specific. Software should be packaged with detailed technical documentation, user documentation, libraries, sources and executable code, and delivered as self-extracting installation executables to support the expected computing environment. In some cases, maintenance agreements (if any) and technical and user documentation may provide for seamless implementation of regular software releases and preclude the government's need for source code. In other cases, the integration of a particular component in a greater system or in a classified application may drive toward a negotiated solution that involves transferring source code to the government.